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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 8, 2002**

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# **GOLDEN VALLEY, AZ WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on February 4, 2002, **ADRIENNE ROCHA** entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$94,017.40. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Theft of Government Property.

ROCHA, whose mother died in January 1993, continued to receive and convert to her own personal use Social Security Widow's benefits checks paid to her deceased mother's account. ROCHA admitted to concealing her mother's death from the Social Security Administration and forging her deceased mother's signature on the Social Security benefits checks each month before depositing the funds into her personal account. Sentencing before Senior United States District Court Judge Robert C. Broomfield is scheduled for April 15, 2002. ROCHA faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The criminal prosecution is the result of a joint effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General to identify and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs. The prosecution is being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-867-PHX-RCB

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